

12141434

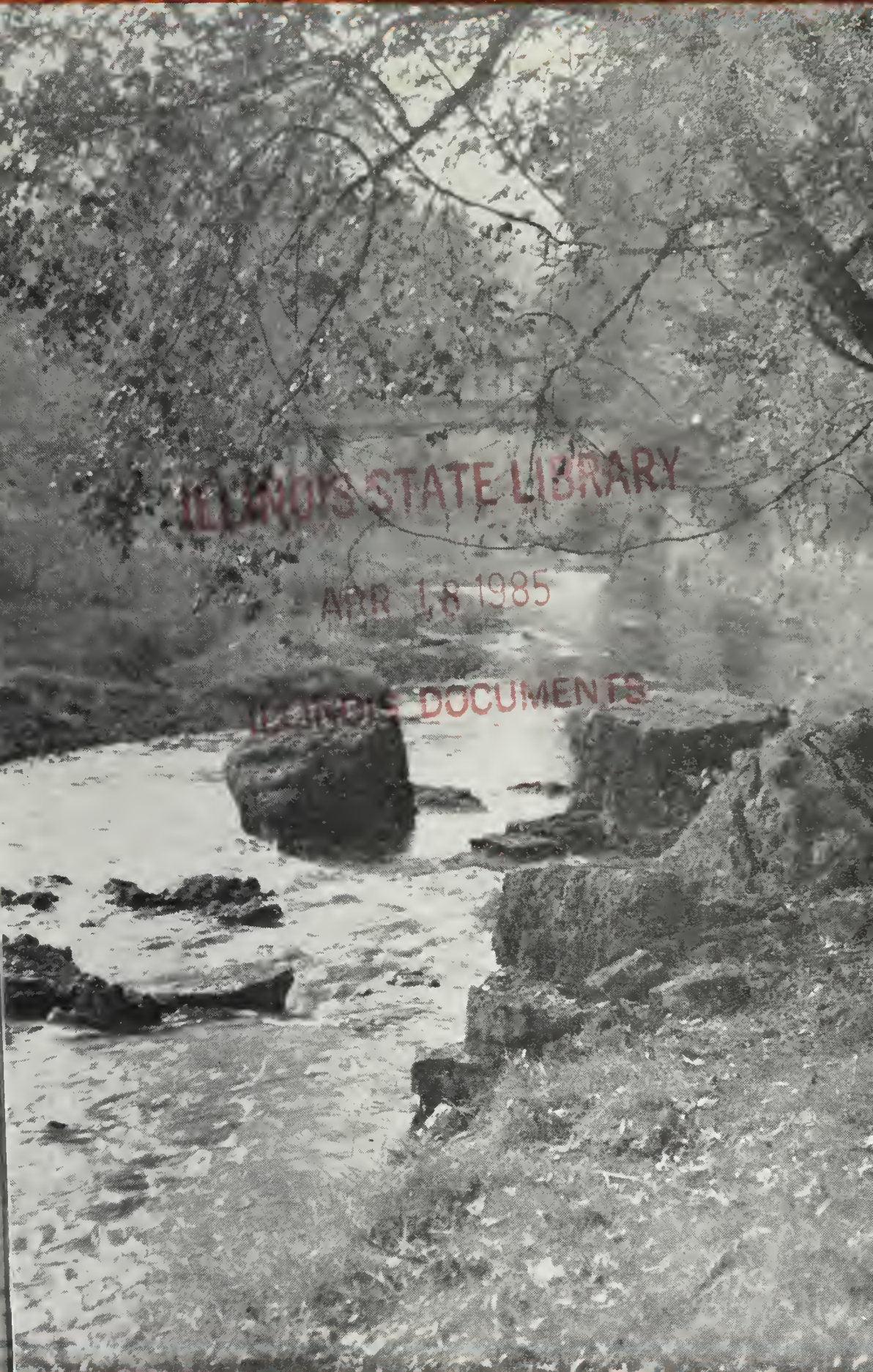
1917.73343

APPL

C.3

# Apple River Canyon

## STATE PARK



ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

APR 18 1985

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS



STATE OF ILLINOIS





● **Apple River winds through Park**

In adding Apple River Canyon, south of Apple River in Jo Daviess County, to its system of Parks and Memorials in 1932, the State of Illinois made available to its people a Park which encompasses in the comparatively small space of 157 acres, a wide variety of interesting features. Limestone bluffs, deep ravines, springs, streams and wild life characterize this area which was once part of a vast sea bottom that stretched from the Alleghenies to the Rockies.

Flowing endlessly for countless centuries the Apple River has cut through the masses of limestone, dolomite and shale until massive cliffs now rise high above the water, and wonderful canyons have formed from which the name of the park derives. Vast ages of water and erosion widened and deepened the crevices as rivers and streams cut their way through the stone.

The glacial sweep which ironed out hills and filled valleys in other parts of the State left this area unscathed. This circumstance accounts for the large number of fossil remains to be found near the surface here. It also was responsible for the easy availability of the lead veins that had much to do with the early development of this section of Illinois.

Joutel, who was in the Mississippi Valley in 1674 and who was later to record La Salle's expedition, wrote tales of Indian lead mines to be heard from travelers to the "Upper Mississippi." The first white man to see the lead mines was Nicholas Perrot, a French trader, who settled on the east side of the Mississippi in 1690. The first to exploit them was John Law, Scotch adventurer, whose Company of the





West, founded in Paris in 1717 on the fraudulent claim that the Illinois lead mines were well-developed, collapsed with a thud which was heard all over France and went down in history as the "Mississippi Bubble."

With the nineteenth century, American settlers arrived, the Sac and Fox Indians were driven out in the Black Hawk War, and Galena, thriving on the profits of lead-mining, became a roaring boom town. Miners by the hundred entered this bonanza country through a canyon which is now one of the principal attractions of Apple River Canyon State Park.

Here was established the town of Millville, of which not a trace remains. Named after its two sawmills, Millville became a stop on the Galena-Chicago stage route and flourished until 1854 when the Illinois Central Railroad, building its line from Freeport to Galena, passed four miles north of the town. In 1892 a devastating flood washed out the dam, swept away many buildings, and drove out forever the people of the town.

From atop the Apple River bluffs may be seen Charles Mound which is 1,241 feet above sea level and the highest point in Illinois. The bluffs also command an excellent view of the deep deciduous forests which include some juniper and an occasional white pine.

Visitors will find marked trails through the canyons and picturesque sections of the park, a picnic area at the site of an old mill, refreshment stand, convenient shelters, camp grounds, and a large parking area. The Apple River, itself, is a clean stream and well stocked with crappies, bullheads, sunfish, catfish, pike, bass and pickerel.





3 0112 122556720

● View along canyon

*This is Your Park—  
Preserve its Natural Beauty*

Write to the Department of  
Public Works and Buildings,  
Division of Parks and Memo-  
rials, State Capitol, Springfield,  
for further information concern-  
ing Illinois Parks and Memo-  
rials.

Forty-two State parks, 25 of  
historic interest, are of easy ac-  
cess from every part of the State.  
Lodges and cabins are an im-  
portant feature of Starved Rock,  
Pere Marquette, White Pines For-  
est and Giant City State Parks.  
Reservations should be made with  
lodge managers.



3 1129 00324 5354

Issued by

Department of Public Works and Buildings

Chas. P. Casey, Director

DIVISION OF PARKS

Ray Hubbs, Superintendent

PRINTED BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

(2932)

